

Catholic Communities
Rev. William Pifher – Parish Pastor

Our Lady of Mercy
Catholic Church

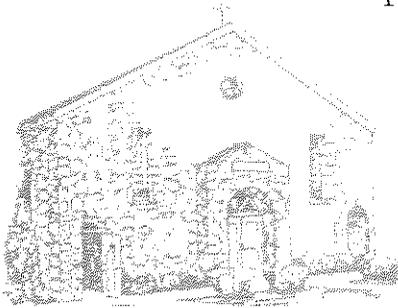
St. Peter
Catholic Church

Sunday

September 14, 2025

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

24th Sunday Ordinary Time



409 E. Main St. / P.O. Box 429
Fayette, OH 43521
419-237-2441
Office Hours – Tues. & Thurs.
9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

MASS SCHEDULE

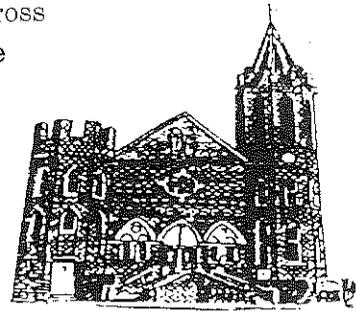
Sunday 8:30 a.m.
(Reconciliation 30 minutes
before Mass or by appointment)
Thursday 9:00 a.m.

PARISH OFFICE STAFF

Sherry Renner
Office Manager/Secretary
OLOMFayette@olom2441.onmicrosoft.com

Tami Baker
Bookkeeper
OLOMBookkeeper@olom2441.onmicrosoft.com

Mary Bird
CRE
OLOMCre@olom2441.onmicrosoft.com



614 N. Defiance St.
Archbold, Ohio 43502
Rectory – 419-446-9288
Office hours – Tues. & Thurs.
9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday 4:30 p.m.
Sunday 10:30 a.m.
Tuesday 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday 9:00 a.m.
Thursday 9:00 a.m.

PARISH OFFICE STAFF

Kim Garrow
419-446-2150
Office Manager/Secretary
stpeter@rtteexpress.net

Doug Williams
Bookkeeper

Deb Herring
CRE

PASTORAL COUNCIL

Ron Eisel – President
Pat Eisel
Ray Hollstein
Mike Burkholder
Traci Maginn
Barbara Roby

FINANCE COUNCIL

Terry Kovar
Barb Bruggeman
Joanna Marry

Council meetings are generally held the 3rd Thursdays of the month
5:45 p.m. – Finance
6:15 p.m. – Pastoral



Clothing items can be donated via our drop off site on the east side of the building. Our store is open on Thursdays from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Contact Rhonda Monahan at 517-306-7986 for information

OUR LADY OF MERCY WEBSITE (bulletin online)
Stpeterarchbold.com/
our-lady-of-mercy

BULLETIN DEADLINE

Please note that the bulletin deadline is **Tuesday by noon**. Please either call, email or put in the collection basket any announcement for the following weeks bulletin.

Welcome to Our Lady of Mercy

Parish Mission Statement

Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church is united by our commitment to minister to the physical and spiritual needs of our rural families and steward the resources entrusted to us. We value the diversity within our Catholic community and invite all to walk with us on our journey of faith.

New Parishioners

A warm welcome as you enter our Parish Community! You are asked to register at the parish office or see the pastor as soon as possible. If you are moving from the parish, please inform the office so we may remove your name from our parish records.

Sacrament of Baptism

Please call the office 419-237-2441 or Father Pifher at 419-446-9288 to make arrangements for Baptism. A month's notice would be helpful.

Sacrament of Marriage

Initial arrangements are to make *six* months prior of your planned wedding date. The Diocesan policy is to allow sufficient time for the couple to make adequate preparation to receive the sacrament. Please call the office 419-237-2441 or Father Pifher at 419-446-9288 to make arrangements.

Anointing of the sick

Please call the office 419-237-2441 or Father Pifher 419-446-9288 to make arrangements for a visit.

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults(OCIA)

Having questions about the Catholic faith? Thinking of joining the Catholic Church? You can learn more by contacting the office 419-237-2441 or Father Pifher 419-446-9288 for the process.

Prayer Chain

Anyone wishing to submit prayer requests can email or call Our Lady of Mercy office.

Email: olomprayerchain@olom2441.onmicrosoft.com

Privacy issues for Parish Office:

IMMEDIATE FAMILY - must contact the Parish Office for all prayer requests to be posted in the parish bulletin. Contact Sherry Renner at the parish office at 419-237-2441, no later than Thursday at noon or email to olomfayette@olom2441.onmicrosoft.com with the exact verbiage requested. By law, the parish office does not divulge private information we receive from hospitals

September 14, 2025 – 23th Sunday of Ordinary Time

ROSARY WILL BE PRAYED SUNDAYS AT 8 A.M.

WELCOME

Welcome, Father George Wenzinger to Our Lady of Mercy and thank you for celebrating Mass with us today.

FEAST DAY CELEBRATION COMMITTEE

There will be a meeting today after Mass to finalize the Feast Day Celebration.

FAITH FORMATION (Religious Education)

There will be a brief parent meeting and registration after Mass today. Classes begin on September 28, 2025, after Mass.

PARISH FEAST DAY CELEBRATION

Our Lady of Mercy Feast Day celebration will be held on Saturday, September 20, 2025. Doors open @ 5:00 p.m.

FEAST DAY AUCTION BASKETS

Please contact Pat Eisel 419-630-6534 if you are planning on donating a basket for the Feast Day Celebration.

ALTAR ROSARY

Altar Rosary will meet on September 21, 2025, after Mass.

ST. PETER NEWS

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Every Tuesday starting at 8 a.m. ending with Mass at 7 p.m.

ORDINARY LIVES

EXTRAORDINARY MISSION

October 22, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

Topic - Eucharistic Revival:

Renewing the church by igniting our relationship with Jesus through the Eucharist – Flyer on the back tables (OLOM)

Did you know that Deacon Larry Zachrich is also available for Baptisms and Weddings? Contact Larry at 419-966-7091.

**FAYETTE/SURROUNDING
AREA COMMUNITY EVENTS**

---Sept. 17 – Fayette Community Meal – 5 – 6 p.m. Fayette Methodist Community Center

--- Sept. 20 - The Bryan Knights of Columbus Council 1915 will be holding a golf outing on September 20 at Patriot Hills golf course. This is a two person scramble and you can build your own team. Tee time is at 9 AM and it is open to the public. Contact Jeff at 567-239-1106 or Jose at 419-551-7519. There are many prizes for all!

THIS WEEK'S MASS SCHEDULE

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Church</i>	<i>Intention</i>
Sun., Sept. 14	8:30 a.m.	OLOM	Rosemary Pontious
	10:30 a.m.	SP	Edward Joseph Britenriker, Jr. For the People
Mon., Sept. 15	NO MASS		
Tues., Sept. 16	6:30 p.m.	SP	NO MASS
Wed., Sept. 17	9:00 a.m.	SP	NO MASS
Thurs., Sept. 18	9:00 a.m.	OLOM	NO MASS
Fri., Sept. 19	9:00 a.m.	SP	For the People
Sat., Sept. 20	4:30 p.m.	SP	For the People
Sun., Sept. 21	8:30 a.m.	OLOM	Rosemary Pontious
	10:30 a.m.	SP	Frank O & Mary Smith Dick & Susan Saaf

PRAYERS FOR / FROM PARISHIONERS

Please keep the following person(s) / intention(s) in your prayers this week.

Shirley Taylor
Denise Miller

Father Bill (Retreat & travel)

If you have someone or an intention you would like the Parish to pray for, please contact the office at 419-237-2441 or email olomprayer@olom2441.onmicorsoft.com before noon on Tuesday.

NEXT WEEK'S MINISTERS – SEPTEMBER 21, 2025

Greeters / Gifts	Joyce Bonin & Marge Crowell
Proclaimer	Ron Baker
Servers	Myla & Mike Burkholder
Ushers	Ron & Pat Eisel
Money Counters	Michelle Miron / Ron Baker / Eli Eberly

SACRIFICIAL OFFERING REPORT

Reported for September 7, 2025

Sunday Offertory (11 envelopes)	\$ 1,386.00
Loose Offerings	\$ 168.00
BUDGET	\$ 1,747.00
Over / (Under)	(\$ 193.00)

OTHER COLLECTIONS

CPC Jar & Votives	\$ 4.00
Maintenance	\$ 105.00
St. Vincent de Paul	\$ 25.00
Altar Rosary Dues	\$ 15.00
Catholic University	\$ 25.00
Rel. Ed donation	\$ 30.00
TOTAL COLLECTIONS	\$ 1,758.00

(Sunday Offertory & Other)

SAINTS OF THE DAY (www.morningoffering.com)

Week of September 14 – September 20

St. Albert of Jerusalem (d. 1215) was born to a noble family in Italy, and was well educated in theology and law. He went on to become a priest and bishop and served in important posts as a peacemaker; he served as a mediator between Pope Clement III and the Holy Roman Emperor, between the Kingdom of Jerusalem and the Kingdom of Cyprus, and between the Knights Templar and the Armenian Kingdom of Cilicia. In 1205 he was made Patriarch of Jerusalem by Pope Innocent III during the time when the Saracens had control of the city. In this position he was respected by all for his sanctity and intelligence. Because of the Muslim presence in Jerusalem, Albert took up residence in Acre overlooking the great city, as well as Mt. Carmel where a group of holy hermits lived. Albert was asked by St. Brocard, who was prior of the group of hermits, to draw up a rule of life for them which became the beginning of the Carmelite Order. In 1214 Albert was summoned to serve in the General Lateran Council, but was murdered before he could attend. The Master of the Hospital of the Holy Spirit, whom he had rebuked and deposed for immorality, stabbed him to death on September 14th in the Church of Saint John of Acre, while he was part of the procession on the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. His feast day is September 14th.

St. Catherine (1447–1510) was born into an aristocratic family in Genoa, Italy. She was a quiet, obedient, physically beautiful, and holy child who devoted herself to prayer and penance. At the age of 13 she made an attempt to enter a convent, but was rejected. At the age of 16 she consented to a marriage arranged by her family for political and financial gain. Her husband was faithless and violent, and their marriage was miserable. Catherine did not bear any children, and for the first five years lived as a hermit in her fine home. After this time, upon her family's rebuke of her solitude, she began to engage in the kind of social activity expected for her state in life. This only increased her weariness and depression, and led to the loss of her religious fervor. Catherine prayed earnestly for assistance in her trouble. Taking the advice of her sister, who was a nun, Catherine went to confession, and through the sacrament had a profound mystical experience in which she clearly saw the depth of her sinfulness contrasted with the depth of God's love. From that point on she renewed her commitment to rigorous prayer, penance, and works of mercy, and God continued to favor her with mystical visions. Catherine later won the conversion of her husband, and they were received into the Third Order of St. Francis. Together they cared for the poor and sick in the Genoa hospital, over which Catherine became administrator. St. Catherine's mystical visions were recorded by her confessor toward the end of her life, the most famous being her Treatise of Purgatory. Her feast day is celebrated on September 15th.

Pope St. Cornelius (d. 253 A.D.) was a Roman citizen and a holy priest who became the twenty-first successor to the chair of St. Peter, following a fourteen-month vacancy when Pope St. Fabian was martyred by Roman Emperor Decius. When the Emperor temporarily left Rome, the persecution against the Christians subsided long enough for the Church to elect St. Cornelius as the new Roman Pontiff. During Pope St. Cornelius' two year reign a great controversy arose as to what to do with Catholics who apostatized from the Christian faith under threat of death during the persecution. Many were being received back to the sacraments without any penance. In response to the scandal, some maintained that apostates could not be forgiven and could only be admitted back to the sacraments if they were re-baptized. Chief among them was a priest named Novatian, who, as a result of the scandal, caused a schism when he had himself consecrated as an anti-pope. In response, Pope St. Cornelius convened a synod of bishops to confirm his rightful authority as Pope. Novatian was excommunicated and his doctrine was condemned as heresy. Pope St. Cornelius proclaimed that the Church had the power and authority to forgive repentant apostasy, and that converted apostates could be readmitted to the sacraments after true contrition with adequate penance. Soon a new wave of persecution against the Christians broke out, and Pope St. Cornelius was driven into exile and martyred. His feast day is celebrated on September 16th.

St. Hildegard von Bingen (1098–1179) was born to a large and noble German family. She began to have mystical visions at the age of three which continued throughout her life. Her parents, promising her the service of God, sent her to be educated at the Benedictine Abbey by an anchoress when she was about eight years of age. At the age of fourteen she became a consecrated nun attached to the Abbey, where she lived a

(St. Hildegard von Bingen – cont.)

quiet life of prayer for many years. At the age of 38, after the anchoress' death, she was chosen as the new leader of a growing group of nuns. Hildegard led a remarkable and unusual life for a woman of her day. She was an avid composer of sacred music and liturgy, in addition to poems and plays. She also wrote heavily on theology, natural medicine, and natural science. At the age of 42, at the command of God, Hildegard began writing down what she saw in her visions. Her works were widely read, even by the Pope, and leaders around the world sought her council. Her fame as a mystic and prophetess grew, earning her the name "Sibyl of the Rhine." More nuns flocked to join her, causing Hildegard to establish a new monastery at Rupertsberg. She wrote proficiently on the harmony of created nature and man's need to live in balance with it, especially in virtue, morality, and the love of God, which led Pope Benedict XVI to declare her the fourth female Doctor of the Church in 2012 alongside Teresa of Avila, Catherine of Siena, and Thérèse of Lisieux. Because her works were far ahead of her time she is regarded as a historical phenomenon. Hildegard of Bingen is considered the founder of scientific natural history in Germany. Her feast day is September 17th.

St. Joseph of Cupertino (1603-1663) was the son of a poor Italian carpenter. His father died before he was born, leaving his mother destitute. As a result Joseph was underfed and often sick. He was an intellectually dull child who constantly found himself the worse off in every situation. He was awkward, absent-minded, unintelligent, and difficult to be around. Many people thought he was good for nothing—including his own mother, who treated him harshly and considered him a burden. Added to the scorn he received from everyone, at the age of eight he began receiving ecstatic visions for which he was also ridiculed. At the age of seventeen Joseph found work with the Capuchin Franciscan friars, eventually joining their order once they recognized his holiness beneath his irritating demeanor. His ecstasies became more pronounced, and he would often levitate or float as they happened. These ecstasies could be triggered easily through the mention of anything heavenly, or by any mortification. These occurrences became a spectacle and disturbance to others and caused Joseph much suffering; they were a cross he would bear his whole life. For example, as a priest he could not celebrate Mass publicly due to his distracting ecstasies. He was even reported to the Inquisition for fear he was involved in witchcraft. Yet St. Joseph lived a life of deep prayer and severe penance through continual fasting, subjecting himself every year to seven Lents of forty days each. Sometimes called "The Flying Saint," St. Joseph of Cupertino is also the patron of air crews and aviators. His feast day is September 18th.

St. Januarius (d. 305 A.D.), also known as San Gennaro, was the Bishop of Benevento, Italy. Little is known of his early life. He was arrested and imprisoned for his faith while visiting other Christians in jail during the persecution of Roman Emperor Diocletian. Many attempts were made to kill him, but one after another they failed. He was thrown into a fiery furnace, but he came out unscathed. He was then thrown to wild beasts in the amphitheater, but they did not attack. He was finally beheaded, and his blood was collected by Christians and kept in a sealed glass vial for veneration. The vial of blood is still kept today in the Naples cathedral, and it has continually demonstrated miraculous properties for which no scientific explanation has been offered. St. Januarius' blood liquefies and becomes fresh on particular occasions throughout the year, especially his feast day, for which the saint has become famous. This phenomenon has been occurring with regularity for centuries, and is one of the "blood miracles" that is historically well-documented among the relics of certain saints. He is the patron saint of blood banks and the city of Naples, Italy. St. Januarius's feast day is September 19th.

St. Andrew Kim Tae-gon (1821-1846) was born to a noble family in Korea, and was baptized at the age of 15 after his parents converted to the Catholic faith. Andrew's father, great-grandfather, and great-uncle were martyred during the government's staunch persecution against Christianity, leaving the remaining family in poverty. Andrew was later chosen to travel over 1,000 miles to the nearest seminary in China to be trained for the priesthood. He was ordained in Shanghai as the first native Korean priest in the Church's history of evangelizing in that country. He returned to Korea in secrecy to avoid detection by the authorities. Once back in his hometown, he worked to catechize the faithful until his bishop summoned him to Seoul to help smuggle French missionaries from China into Korea, with the aid of Chinese fishermen. During this operation he was caught and imprisoned by the border patrol, and charged as a traitor to his country. He was tortured and beheaded on September 16, 1846, at the age of 25. Pope John Paul II canonized Fr. Andrew Kim Tae-gon, along with 102 other Korean martyrs, on May 6, 1984. St. Andrew Kim Tae-gon is the patron saint of Korea. His feast day is celebrated on September 20th.

***ASK HER – SIMPLE WORDS TO JUMPSTART
YOUR CONVERSATION WITH MARY***

By Jane Tufant Harvey

“Ask Her...to help you be an example of the virtues you hope your children and grandchildren will emulate.”

DIARY OF SAINT MARIA FAUSTINA KOWALSKA

Notebook 3

1218 Today bring to me the souls who especially venerate and glorify My mercy and immerse them in My mercy. These souls sorrowed most over My Passion and entered most deeply into My Spirit. They are living images of My Compassionate Heart. These souls will shine with a special brightness in the next life. Not one of them will go into the fire of hell. I shall particularly defend each one of them at the hour of death.

MESSAGES OF MEDJUGORJE

On the 25th of day of each month the Queen of Peace gives a message to the visionary, Marija Pavlovic, for the whole world.

Up-to-date messages may be obtained at <http://www.medjugorje.org>

April 12, 1984 – “Dear children! Today I beseech you to stop slandering and to pray for the unity of the parish, because I and my Son have a special plan for this parish. Thank you for having responded to my call.”

DAILY READINGS WEBSITES / MATERIALS

www.usccb.org/daily-bible-reading

www.ewtn.com/catholicism/daily-readings

Word Among Us – located on back table

UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

---Sept. 14 – Faith Formation
parent meeting & registration

---Sept. 14 – Feast Day
Committee meeting after Mass

---Sept. 20 – Our Lady of Mercy
Festival – see information
letter for details

---Sept. 21 – Altar Rosary
meeting after Mass

---Sept. 28 – 1st Faith
Formation class after Mass

Word(s) of the week (from the
America College Dictionary)

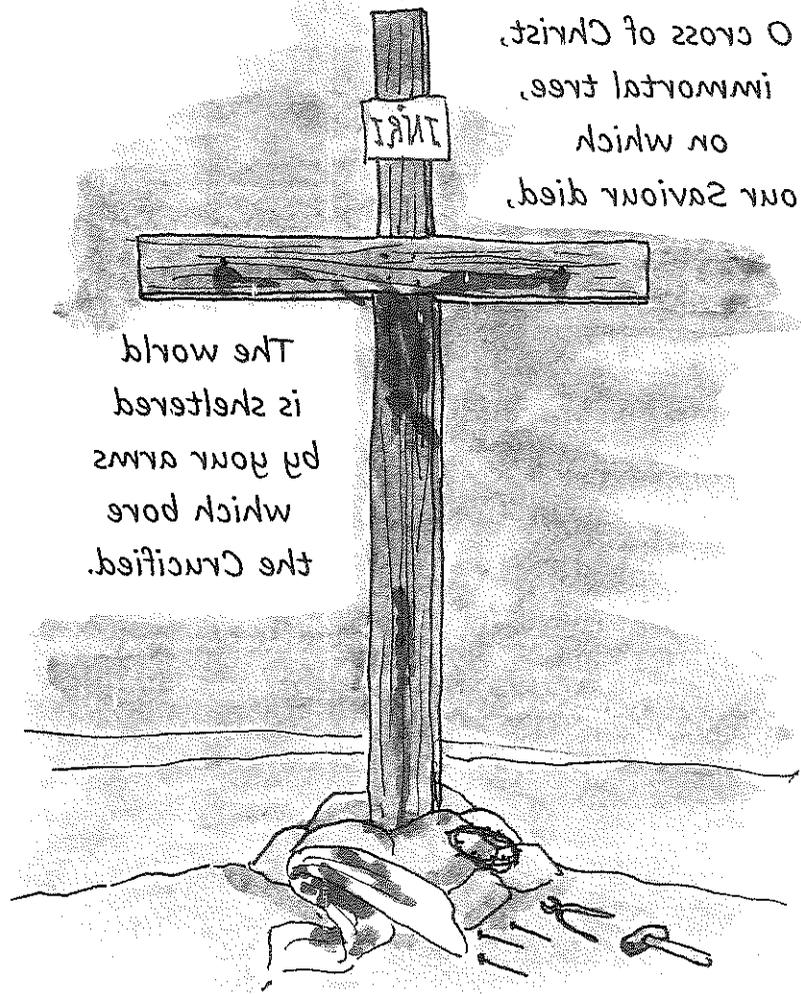
ACCEPTANCE – act of assenting
or believing

For God so loved the world that he gave his only
Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not
perish but might have eternal life.

John 3:16

The Kids' Bulletin

Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross
September 14th, 2025

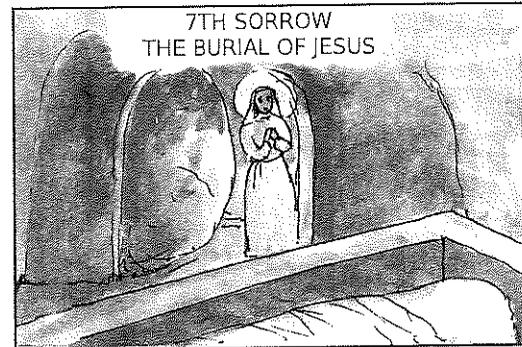
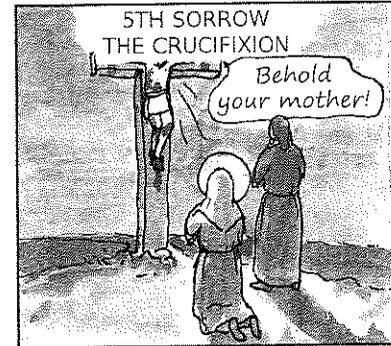
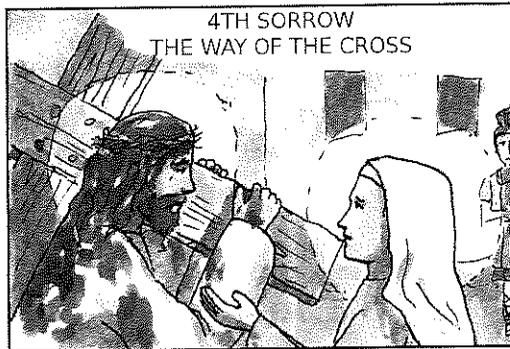
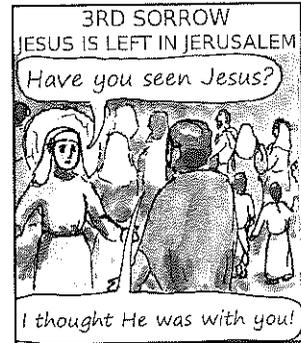
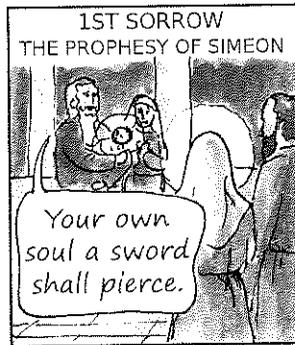


*Today is a special feast day when we celebrate
the cross on which Jesus died.*

*Look in the mirror to find the words of a hymn
that tells us about what the cross means to us.*

Our Lady of Sorrows

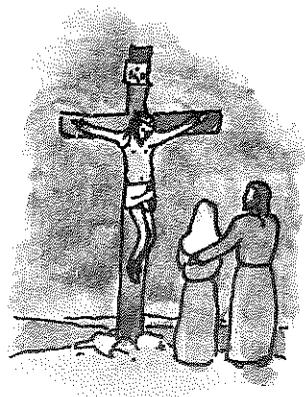
September 15



WHEN YOU REALLY LOVE SOMEONE YOU WILL FEEL SAD WHEN THEY ARE HURT. OUR LADY LOVED JESUS MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE EVER COULD, AND SHE ALSO SUFFERED MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE. BUT SHE WAS HAPPY TO SUFFER FOR JESUS. WE SHOULD PRAY TO OUR LADY TO HELP US TO LOVE OUR LORD, EVEN IF WE HAVE TO SUFFER.

Word-find: The Holy Cross

CALVARYMARYH
PCROSSSTHREE
LADJESUSLITA
ADAMSAVIOROV
CHRNTCHEVERY
EEKCARRYEETN
GATESINSDFUA
OVIFKFATHERI
DEMRYIHELLEL
LNEEECHILLNE
OFFEREDIEDAD



*Find all the words in
CAPITALS in the puzzle.
Use the leftover letters to
fill in the blanks at the end.*

After ADAM and Eve sinned, the world needed a SAVIOUR who would FREE us from the punishment we deserved in HELL. JESUS, Who was the Son of GOD, LOVED us so much that He OFFERED His life to God the FATHER as a SACRIFICE for our SINS.

When the TIME came for Jesus to die, the HEAVY wooden cross was placed on His shoulders. He was forced to CARRY it to the top of the HILL. EVERY step was TORTURE. He FELL several times, and met His holy mother MARY along the way.

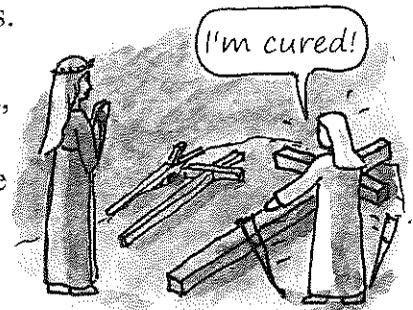
Finally He came to CALVARY, also called the PLACE of the Skull. The soldiers NAILED Him to the CROSS and lifted it up. The SKY became DARK as Jesus hung there for THREE hours. Finally He DIED. His soul went to God and He opened the GATES of HEAVEN.

*Who found Jesus' cross after it
had been buried for 300 years? _____*

The Holy Cross

Today we celebrate the feast of the Exaltation, or Triumph, of the Holy Cross on which Our Lord died. The cross was an instrument of torture used to punish criminals and to show other people what would happen to them too, if they broke the Roman laws. Our Lord used the cross for a different reason though. He offered His sufferings on the cross to repay for the sins of everyone else in the world. He died in a place where many people could see Him so that they could see and know how much He loves us.

In the 300's AD, St. Helena, who was a Christian queen, went to Jerusalem to find the cross of Jesus. She found three crosses there so she decided to test to see which was Christ's. A very sick woman touched each cross. When she touched the third one she was healed instantly! They had found the cross of Christ!



In hoc signo, vinces!

Saint Helena's son Constantine was not a Christian yet, but when he was about to go to war he had a vision of the cross and heard the words "In this sign you shall conquer!" So he had crosses drawn on all the flags and shields, and he won the battle. Then he believed in Jesus and became a Christian.

Answer to Word-Find: Saint Helena